<u>Amendments to the Specification:</u>

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] Commercially available expanded polystyrene beads contain integrated bromocompounds (intended to serve as flame retardants) have been used for lost foam casting of aluminum. This has occurred primarily in Europe where beads containing hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) (Figure 1) or tetrabromocyclooctane (TBCO) (Figure 2) have been produced by German chemical manufacturers. It has been discovered (by applicants) that commercially available expanded polymer containing integrated bromocompounds have produced significantly fewer fold defects in engine castings. However, expanded polystyrene beads with these integrated bromocompounds ~~requires an addition~~ <u>require an additional</u> lubricant additive for use in lost foam castings. ~~A polystyrene~~ <u>Polystyrene</u> beads with the integrated bromocompounds are also expensive. Furthermore, these commercially available beads with integrated HCBD or TBCO can be environmentally undesirable ~~because of the~~ <u>because the</u> bromine atom is located on the aromatic ring. Thus it would be desirable to provide a method of inexpensively producing environmentally acceptable expanded polystyrene beads for use in making mold shaped objects for lost foam aluminum casting.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] Another embodiment of the invention includes forming a molded pattern from the polystyrene beads with the topically applied brominated compounds wherein each of the brominated compounds comprises at least two bromine ~~substituent~~ <u>substituents</u>.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030]   Another embodiment of the invention includes pouring molten metal into the lost foam casting mold and onto the molded pattern to depolymerize the polystyrene beads with the topically applied brominated compounds wherein each of the brominated compounds comprises at least two bromine ~~substituent~~ <u>substituents</u>.